

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1483

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T USNATO 2362

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: FLANK SECURITY: SPC MEETING APRIL 28

REF: A. USNATO 1996; B. USNATO 2024; C. USNATO 5200

DTG 242030Z SEP 75; D. STATE 95503

BEGIN SUMMARY: SPC ON APRIL 28 NEARED AGREEMENT ON DRAFT GUIDANCE TO AHG ON FLANK SECURITY. ITALY AND GREECE JOINED THE CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF THE FOOTNOTE FOR INFORMATION OF AHG THAT THE ALLIES STILL HAD TO SETTLE WHETHER TO DEFINE THE GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS INTO WHICH FORCES WITHDRAWN FROM THE REDUCTIONS AREA WOULD NOT REDEPLOY. IN ADDITION, ITALIAN REP STATED ITALY COULD ACCEPT THE PHRASE REFERRING TONON-CIR-
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CUMVENTION (OR THE UK ALTERNATIVE), IF THE SPC COULD AGREE TO A WORD OTHER THAN "CIRCUMVENT". SPC RETURNS TO THE DRAFT GUIDANCE ON MONDAY, MAY 5. END SUMMARY.

1. ITALIAN REP (SPINELLI) AND GREEK REP (CORANTIS) STATED THAT THEY COULD JOIN THE CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF THE FOOTNOTE ON GEOGRAPHIC AREAS WHICH LEFT OPEN THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE ALLIES WOULD EVENTUALLY DEFINE THESE AREAS. THUS IN FOOTNOTE (2) OF THE TEXT IN REF A, THE "EITHER" AND "OR" VERSIONS BOTH DROP OUT, AND THE AGREED FOOTNOTE IS AS FOLLOWS: "THE QUESTION STILL REMAINS TO BE SETTLED BY THE ALLIES WHETHER OR NOT THESE GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS SHOULD BE DEFINED, AND IF DEFINED, WHAT THEY SHOULD BE".

2. ITALIAN REP STATED THAT ITALY COULD NOT ACCEPT THE PHRASE BEGINNING "OR CIRCUMVENT" AT THE END OF THE FORMULATION PART OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE (REF A), OR ITS UK ALTERNATIVE (PARA 5, REF B). HOWEVER, THIS ACCEPTANCE WAS CONDITIONAL ON THE SPC AGREEING TO SOME OTHER WORD THAN "CIRCUMVENT". THIS WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER NOT TO CREATE ANY IMPRESSION WHATEVER ON THE OTHER SIDE THAT THIS WAS AN ALLIED POSITION ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION. THE ALLIED POSITION ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION WOULD HAVE TO GO MUCH FURTHER, PARTICULARLY SO FAR AS HUNGARY WAS CONCERNED.

3. U.S. REP (MOORE) STATED THAT "CIRCUMVENT" WAS THE PROPER WORD IN THIS PHRASE, AND THAT THE ALTERNATIVES WHICH HAD BEEN SUGGESTED WOULD TEND TO CONFUSE THE OTHER SIDE AND RAISE MORE QUESTIONS THAN THE WORD "CIRCUMVENT" (REF D). ITALIAN REP SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HAD COME A LONG WAY TOWARD THE POSITION OF THE OTHER ALLIES, FIRST IN GIVING UP THE ITALIAN FORMULATION ON "CONTIGUOUS AREAS", AND THEN IN DROPPING THEIR INSISTENCE THAT THE "OR CIRCUMVENT" PHRASE BE DELETED. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WERE VERY FIRM ABOUT FINDING AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE WORD "CIRCUMVENT". HE SAID THAT HE COULD ACCEPT ANY OF THE BELGIAN ALTERNATIVE WORDS (CONTRAVENE, COUNTERACT, OR RUN COUNTER TO). OTHER SPC MEMBERS SUGGESTED "ENDANGER", "FRUSTRATE" OR "JEOPARDIZE", AND ITALIAN REP SAID HE COULD ACCEPT ANY OF THOSE WORDS AS WELL. U.S. REP POINTED OUT THAT THESE WORDS POSED THE SAME PROBLEMS AS THE BELGIAN ALTERNATIVES. (COMMENT: NETHERLANDS REP (MEESMAN) TOLD MISSION OFFICER AFTER THE MEETING THAT ALTHOUGH THE NETHERLANDS STRONGLY PREFERS "CIRCUM-
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VENT", HE EXPECTED THAT THE HAGUE COULD AGREE TO ONE OF THE OTHER WORDS, SINCE THAT WOULD MEAN ITALIAN AGREEMENT TO THE DRAFT GUIDANCE.)

4. UK REP (BAILES) SAID THE UK WISHED TO CHANGE SLIGHTLY THE UK AMENDMENT TO THE "OR CIRCUMVENT" PHRASE IN ORDER TO PUT IT INTO BETTER ENGLISH. THE PHRASE WOULD NOW READ "OR WHERE RE-DEPLOYMENT OF THESE FORCES WOULD CIRCUMVENT THE OBJECTIVE PURSUED IN THIS AGREEMENT OF ENHANCING STABILITY AND SECURITY IN EUROPE". A CANVASSING OF THE SPC BY THE CHAIRMAN INDICATED A GENERAL CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF THE UK AMENDMENT, RATHER THAN THE ORIGINAL "OR CIRCUMVENT" PHRASE.

5. THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE TRANSMITTED IN REF A OMITTED THE DUTCH FOOTNOTE FOR INTERNAL INFORMATION OF THE AHG REGARDING CONSULTATION PROCEDURE WHICH SHOULD APPEAR AS FOOTNOTE (3) AT THE END OF THE FORMULATION PART OF THE GUIDANCE. INTERNATIONAL STAFF OMITTED THIS FOOTNOTE FROM LAST VERSION OF THE FORMULATION, BUT THE DUTCH HAVE INFORMED IS THAT THEY STILL WANT THE FOOTNOTE. THIS WAS FOOTNOTE (2) IN THE VERSION OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE TRANSMITTED IN REF C. NO COUNTRY HAS OBJECTED TO THIS FOOTNOTE, WHICH IS PURELY A NATIONAL FOOTNOTE FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE AHG ONLY.

6. SPC WILL RETURN TO FLANK SECURITY ON MONDAY, MAY 5, WITH THE HOPE OF REACHING FINAL AGREEMENT AT THAT MEETING OR AT THE FOLLOWING MEETING; ON DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR NAC CONSIDERATION. THE DRAFT GUIDANCE IS AS STATED IN REF A, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS. THE UK PHRASE IN PARA 4 ABOVE REPLACES THE "OR CIRCUMVENT" PHRASE AT THE END OF THE FORMULATION PART OF THE GUIDANCE. THE WORD "CIRCUMVENT" IS NOT ACCEPTED BY ITALY AS NOTED IN PARA 3 ABOVE. FOOTNOTE (2) IS AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 1 ABOVE. FOOTNOTE (3) IS AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 5 ABOVE. THE DUTCH STILL MAINTAIN THEIR BRACKETED LANGUAGE IN PARA 3 (D) OF THE GUIDANCE WHICH WOULD MAKE TIMING OF THE USE OF THE GUIDANCE BY THE AHG A MATTER FOR NAC DECISION, BUT WE UNDERSTAND FROM DUTCH REP THAT THE DUTCH WILL BE ABLE TO DROP THIS LANGUAGE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) SINCE ITALY CAN NOW AGREE TO THE DRAFT GUIDANCE IF THE SPC CAN AGREE TO AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE SECRET

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WORD "CIRCUMVENT", CAN WASHINGTON AGREE TO ANY OF THE ALTERNATIVES STATED IN PARA 3 ABOVE? (WE NOTE THAT "FRUSTRATE" IS THE DICTIONARY SYNONYM FOR "CIRCUMVENT". (B) CAN WASHINGTON ACCEPT THE CHANGE IN THE UK AMENDMENT TO THE "OR CIRCUMVENT" PHRASE DESCRIBED IN PARA 4 ABOVE? BRUCE

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